

# *New Brunswick Urban League*

FOR EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Fifth Annual Report  
1946-1951

## FOREWORD

We of the Staff have made a courageous effort to improve the social and economic status of Negroes and other minorities in this community. Because we are so close to the problems involved in molding public opinion, and fostering better race relations, we sometimes have been quite discouraged, and have felt that our efforts were of little or no avail. Realizing that our Board members could give unprejudiced opinions of what the League has meant and means to this community better than we could express it ourselves, we asked several members of our Board, each a leader in his own field, to tell what contributions the League had made and is making to this area in its five years of existence.

Mr. Louis D. Migliorini, first president of the Board and President of the local Rutgers Chevrolet Company; Mr. Elmer B. Boyd, President of the Home News Publishing Company; Rev. Rufus Cornelison, second president of the Board and Pastor of the Emanuel Lutheran Church; Rev. Jesse L. Lee, Pastor of Sharon Baptist Church; and Mr. Harry S. Feller, in the Real Estate and Insurance business have stated their views which we present herewith as a cross-section of the general thinking of the members of our Board.

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### STAFF

Llewellyn K. Shivery

*Executive Secretary*

Alice J. Archibald

*Executive Assistant*

February 21, 1951

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE URBAN LEAGUE:

As its first president, my sole belief in the New Brunswick Urban League has been my interest in the support of any organization that is working toward the improvement of conditions among minorities. Five years ago when the Urban League was started in this community there was quite a bit of doubt as to the advisability of such a step. However, there were a number of hearty souls like myself who believed in its purpose, and the need for such an organization. Our faith in the League has been justified for we have seen it grow from nothing to the place where it is recognized as an agency that is definitely rendering a service to the total community. It has worked to improve the working and housing conditions of the Negro community in an attempt to help it become a self-sustaining group and a credit to this locality. If it has done nothing more than this it has been well worth the efforts and energies of the people who have worked so faithfully with it. As the years go on the League should continue to grow and be a definite influence for the good in the community, and a source for the betterment of race and human relations.

Sincerely,

Louis B. Migliorini

February 21, 1951

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE URBAN LEAGUE:

It gives me great pleasure to write my endorsement of what the Urban League has done for New Brunswick since the branch of the national organization was established here five years ago. Frankly, I do not know what we would have done without this assistance.

Among other things, the Urban League has made it possible for a number of boys and girls to acquire a college education and other specialized training who otherwise would not have had this opportunity. It has helped to break down race discrimination, found jobs for many, given excellent advice and legal assistance to persons who could not afford it, located living quarters for those who could not help themselves, and rendered other services too countless to mention.

It is my prediction that the Urban League from now on will render invaluable services, and if World War III should bring on as many problems as I anticipate, there will be all the more need than ever for this organization.

Sincerely,

Elmer B. Boyd

February 21, 1951

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE URBAN LEAGUE:

This is the Fifth Anniversary Year of our full scale Urban League service in New Brunswick. We made a slow beginning. That was quite natural as we had to establish ourselves and form a program that answered to the needs that existed. We have now become a vital part of our community, and have made a real impact upon it.

From its infancy on, the Urban League has advanced under the pioneering leadership of Llewellyn K. Shivery. His personality and influence have been indelibly written into the life of our community. He has now gone on to a greater work in the capitol city of our nation, but his achievements among us remain with us.

Your Board is making every effort to find a capable successor to Mr. Shivery. We hope that the New Brunswick Urban League five years from now may be just as proud of its record as it is today.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rufus Cornelison

February 21, 1951

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE URBAN LEAGUE:

In the Five years of the New Brunswick Urban League, records have been made and achievements attained along many lines. The Urban League has done much to bring about a better understanding between labor and management. The League has made a wonderful contribution to the economic development among Negroes in this community. Friendly contacts have been made through the League to aid workers who were in many cases unaware of their rights under the law, or were unprepared to fight for them.

It is a sound social principle that the best assistance which can be given to people is encouragement toward self-help. The League has gone a long way in encouraging the less fortunate in this city in many ways. Many of the social problems which heretofore were brought to the pastor<sup>s</sup> of New Brunswick are now being handled by the local Urban League, and with better results and more efficiency than could have been done by the local pastors. This has been quite a release to the pastors. They now have more time to devote to spiritual matters.

The New Brunswick Urban League is indeed an asset to our city, and I, for one, would like to see the good work continued. Much good is being done, and much more could be done if more of the New Brunswick citizens would support it.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jesse L. Lee

February 21, 1951

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE URBAN LEAGUE:

I will never forget this first five years of work with our Urban League. They were hard, furious, and full of new experiences. Much time was spent seeking to understand the full purpose of the Urban League movement. My membership on the Board came to mean very much to me, and it became one of the positive forces in my life.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee one of my primary interests was in getting more and more of our colored and white citizens to become acquainted with the operations and functions of the League, and to have it become a positive factor in their lives. I feel that it is only through the launching of a vigorous campaign to get more and more of our population interested that we can ever hope to attain "equal economic opportunity."

Considerable good has been accomplished by the League. Now we are ready to start our next five year program. Much remains to be done, but with the continued help that our members and friends will give, I am confident that our plans for so vital a segment of our population will meet with greater success.

Sincerely,

Harry S. Feller



February 21, 1951

To Our Members and Friends:

The current year marks the fifth anniversary of the New Brunswick Urban League and its service of education and social engineering to the citizens of the New Brunswick community. Anniversary occasions are fitting times for celebration and congratulations. I feel, too, that the milestone of an anniversary is a timely point at which to look back over the period past; to survey the area of accomplishments and failures (for such there always are); and at the same time to analyze the job ahead. It is a fitting time, also, to blueprint the machinery necessary to do that job.

The League has been greatly interested in the employment picture of this area. The Negro worker has figured quite prominently in the hiring plans of local industrial concerns. I do not mean to say, however, that all of these persons are adequately or properly employed. Several are employed at jobs far below their proper level of skill and profession. The Urban League strives to improve the economic and social status of Negro citizens by expanding opportunities for satisfactory employment of the members of that social group.

One of the essential elements necessary for any effective progress along this line is the acquisition of as wide a fund of knowledge as possible concerning the conditions which operate in this field. This involves a continuous and careful checking and re-checking, weighing and evaluating of the situation in all of its ramifications. Circumstances have been such as to bring about many complications which have exerted tremendous influence in determining the extent to which the Negro worker should have an opportunity for satisfactory employment under favorable conditions to work at occupations for which he is fitted by training and ability. This being the case, it is our conviction that extreme care must be taken at all times to avoid making matters worse by reliance upon guess work, rumor, reckless exaggerations, and failure to take into account the significance of gains which might be made at any given time.

The types of activities which the League has carried on in the past five years include along with employment and improving industrial relations:

1. Guidance and Counselling (Vocational and Educational)
2. Working with the educational institutions of the area
3. Cooperating with veterans and their organizations
4. Referral work with other social service agencies  
(public and private)

continuation of President's letter

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5. Cooperation with health organizations and institutions (clinics)
  6. Cooperation with all organizations working on better housing for people of this area
  7. Working at all times for improved race relations

This is a fitting time, too, to express our appreciation to the many employers in New Brunswick and vicinity, and all others who have cooperated with our program. Their demonstrated willingness to treat with us in the matter of proper utilization of the skills and productivity of the Negro worker and his family assures us that our philosophy and our methods are reasonably sound and important to the economic life of our community.

Sincerely yours,



Eric B. Chandler, President  
Board of Directors

## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

Another year has passed and we feel that it has been highly successful. In looking back over the five years since the transition from the New Brunswick Service Council to the New Brunswick Urban League, we feel certain that we have been moving in the right direction. The fields of race relations and public opinion are two of the most difficult in which to work, but because of the nature of the principles on which the League was founded we have been undaunted in our efforts to make the New Brunswick community a better place in which to live. During the past five years we have built a sympathetic and understanding feeling within the community that we are striving for the fulfillment of the true democratic way of life.

The writing of an annual report is a most thought provoking bit of work; yet it is necessary to acquaint the members and friends of what has been done. It also serves as a mirror to reflect what has not been done within a given period. As has been stated before, it is very difficult to take raw figures and show the tremendous amount of work that has gone into their compilation. To be able to say that during any given month we had eleven applicants for employment and vocational guidance doesn't mean anything, but when you realize the counselling, the field visits, and the back calls that are necessary to make it possible to do anything for those eleven human beings, it is meaningful.

Within the field of employment and vocational guidance there are two things that stand out for the year of 1950. One is the

result of a drastic change in the mood of the male youth of our community who can no longer look forward to the vocations of their choice but are faced with the inevitable prospect of entry into the armed services. The other is the declaration by one of the major industrial concerns that it did not have a policy of discrimination in its employment program.

Due to the impact of the world crisis, the employment expansion in New Brunswick and vicinity has far outstripped its available manpower. Recruiting for persons with adequate skills has crossed local lines, state lines, and in some instances regional lines, making it possible for a tremendous shortage of labor to exist. We were not looking for this at this particular time, but through our program of vocational guidance we have been urging youth of all races to qualify themselves for the types of work in which they were interested, and feel that the results have not been negligible. We have been of assistance to both the local Employment Service and to industry in securing qualified Negro applicants for jobs never held by this group before, not on the basis of race but in an effort to utilize the total manpower in the community. As an example, we have located research laboratory assistants for a large industrial concern, clerical and secretarial help for industry and local government, and we feel very happy over the acceptance of one of the recipients of our scholarship aid being placed with the Atomic Energy Commission.

We have counseled with twenty-three young men who have voluntarily enlisted with the various branches of the armed services on

the selection of the branch of service that they wished to enter. This has been very difficult because of the uncertainty of the periods of enlistments, the actual locations of the individuals after induction, and the possibility of active duty overseas. However, we have done our best to urge these young men to try in every way that they could to continue their interests, and, if possible, secure training in their choice of vocations while in the armed services. This has been done as a part of the counselling that we have given in the fields of health and welfare services, housing, and occupations.

During the year 1950 the Urban League in the field of education and public relations has filled a number of requests for information about race relations, and has distributed a wealth of material to clubs, newspapers, the radio, and private individuals as well as students in the schools and colleges of the community. Our library on race relations and the Negro has been a resource for students from the graduate schools of Rutgers University as well as the colleges and the three senior high schools.

Again this year the participation of students of the senior classes in the Mrs. Edwin R. Carpenter Essay Contest was excellent. We feel that the chance for these young people to tell how they feel that race relations can be improved in this community will go a long way toward the building of a better world for tomorrow. For the first time since this contest started three years ago, the winner of the contest was a Negro. Malcolm Busch won

first prize at New Brunswick High School, while Thomas Comer was the first prize winner at St. Peter's High. The lone girl winner was Nancy Warr of Highland Park High School. It might be of interest to know that the first year three girls won, the second year two girls and one boy as against this year's two boys and one girl.

Very little change has been made in the housing picture during the year 1950. The number of new homes made available to all people of the community has been very small. However, three things have brought the housing picture into focus again. One is the coming into the community of three major industries with a possible employee roll of approximately 4100 persons. Two, the re-activation of Camp Kilmer as a full scale operation of the armed services. These two events have pointed up the tremendous need for the overall expansion of the total number of homes needed to care for the families of workers and enlisted men. The third event has been the beginning of construction of a 200 family unit housing development by the local Housing Authority which will do something to alleviate the overcrowdedness for the local residents. It will not do much for the increased demand by the influx of newcomers for the already short supply of available housing. We have worked closely with the Housing Authority and individuals in doing what we could to make the most of a very bad situation.

The Women's Guild of the League has again been very active in aiding and promoting the work of the League. Scholarships were given to two students attending the New Jersey College for Women,

and one of the local junior high school girls was given a scholarship to St. Dorothy's Catholic School for Girls. They held four public meetings including a forum and a bazaar during the year. Its membership is constantly growing along with that of the League.

The Young Adult Chapter in its efforts to bring together the young people of the colleges and senior high schools of all races and creeds has held a series of meetings with speakers telling of activities of youth in foreign countries. They also held a highly successful Harvest Ball which was attended by over 200 young people.

Among other highlights of the League program was the very successful Fourth Annual Meeting with Mr. G. James Fleming, Secretary of the Race Relations Committee of the American Friends Service Committee as the guest speaker.

Cooperation with the Sociology Department of the New Jersey College for Women in its In-Service Training Program was continued. The League also cooperated with the Optimist Club in its selection of the Boy-of-the Month having selected John Voorhees, Jr. as the one for the month of June. We also cooperated in the promotion of Brotherhood Week serving on the Brotherhood Committee of New Brunswick and Vicinity. Still other highlights were the attendance of Board and Staff representatives at the Regional Meeting of the National Urban League held in New York City in April, and at the Annual Conference of the National Urban League at Grand Rapids, Michigan in September.

Members of the Staff have spoken before twenty-eight clubs and organizations, worked with as members of committees the:

Brotherhood Committee of New Brunswick and Vicinity  
Council of Urban Leagues and Similar Agencies  
New Jersey Welfare Council  
North Jersey Branch, National Association of College Women  
Community Chest of New Brunswick and Vicinity  
Community Welfare Council of New Brunswick and Vicinity  
New Jersey Chapter, American Association of Social Workers  
Youth Guidance Council of New Brunswick

At the end of this report you will find a list of figures which do not tell the amount of work that has been done, but will give you some idea of the many sided avenues that have been explored, and an idea of the number of persons, contacts, and materials with which we have worked during the year as well as a summation of five years' operation as an Urban League. These figures do not show the number of telephone calls made, letters written, the tremendous amount of clerical work that was done gratis, or the home visits that were made from time to time. However, everyone likes to speak in terms of numbers, and we have included them to aid us in telling you what we have done and are doing. We think that we would be remiss in closing without mentioning the splendid cooperation received and given to the many agencies working within this community who are helping make it a better place in which to live. We are not going to name all of the things that we have done in cooperation with the various agencies working toward social betterment, but we will list some of those with whom we have worked. Among them are:

Community Chest of New Brunswick and Vicinity  
Community Welfare Council of New Brunswick and Vicinity  
Salvation Army  
Child and Family Service Bureau  
New Brunswick Housing Authority  
Federal Housing and Public Housing Administrations



New Brunswick Chapter, American Red Cross  
Middlesex County Welfare Department  
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts, Middlesex County  
YWCA and YWCA  
Board of Education  
Highland Park, St. Peter's, and New Brunswick High  
State Parole Board  
State Division Against Discrimination  
Probation Department of Juvenile Court  
New Brunswick Council of Churches  
New Brunswick Ministers' Alliance  
New Brunswick Goodwill Council  
Middlesex County Tuberculosis and Health League  
New Brunswick Tenants' Council  
Middlesex Organization Cerebral Palsy  
Elk's Crippled Children's Fund  
Middlesex County Vocational Schools

We wish to thank the Boards, Staffs, and Memberships of these various agencies and organizations for their cooperation and willingness to work with us, and also to the Board and Membership of the Urban League we extend sincere thanks and appreciation because, without this cooperation we would not have been able to serve those persons who came to us.

We are grateful to the volunteers who have worked with us in all capacities to help the Staff spread itself making it possible to carry out the directives as handed down by the Board of Directors. We are highly appreciative of the splendid response from the community, and the acceptance of our efforts to render a service for the economic and racial improvement of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Llewellyn K. Shivery*  
Llewellyn K. Shivery,  
Executive Secretary

*Alice J. Archibald*  
Alice J. Archibald,  
Executive Assistant

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

NUMERICAL DIGEST OF AGENCY ACTIVITIES

1950

1946-1950

**I. EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE**

|                                                                           |                    |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| <b>A. <u>Applicants for Employment</u></b>                                | <b>155 (Total)</b> | <b>465</b> |
| Skilled                                                                   | 9                  | 104        |
| Industrial (unskilled and semi-skilled)                                   | 56                 | 162        |
| Technical and Professional                                                | 28                 | 66         |
| Clerical                                                                  | 30                 | 76         |
| Sales                                                                     | 13                 | 20         |
| Service (domestic and personal)                                           | 19                 | 37         |
| <b>B. <u>Referrals to:</u></b>                                            | <b>153 (Total)</b> | <b>417</b> |
| State Employment Service                                                  | 57                 | 228        |
| Private Employers                                                         | 67                 | 112        |
| Other Agencies                                                            | 29                 | 77         |
| <b>C. <u>Job Orders</u></b>                                               | <b>80</b>          | <b>200</b> |
| <b>D. <u>Placements</u></b>                                               | <b>14 (Total)</b>  | <b>32</b>  |
| Industrial (unskilled and semi-skilled)                                   |                    | 4          |
| Technical and Professional                                                | 1                  | 2          |
| Clerical                                                                  | 6                  | 8          |
| Sales                                                                     | 2                  | 2          |
| Service (domestic and personal)                                           | 4                  | 14         |
| Unusual or Special (not including "Pilot")                                | 1                  | 2          |
| <b>E. <u>Field Contacts in Job Development and Consultation with:</u></b> | <b>91 (Total)</b>  | <b>184</b> |
| Employers (private industry)                                              | 28                 | 80         |
| Labor Unions                                                              | 6                  | 12         |
| SES and other Government Agencies                                         | 28                 | 58         |
| Non-profit Agencies                                                       | 29                 | 34         |
| <b>F. <u>Vocational Guidance</u></b>                                      | <b>59 (Total)</b>  | <b>402</b> |
| Applicants for Individual                                                 | 47                 | 291        |
| Field Contacts                                                            | 10                 | 90         |
| Group Meetings for Counselling                                            | 2                  | 21         |

continuation of STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

NUMERICAL DIGEST OF AGENCY ACTIVITIES

1 950

1946-1950

II. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES

|                                                            |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Requests filled for Urban League information               | 1560 | 3266 |
| Requests filled for Race Relations information             | 162  | 1598 |
| Speeches made by Staff and Board Members                   | 28   | 180  |
| Radio Programs sponsored by Urban League                   |      | 6    |
| Newspaper Releases to Press                                | 24   | 150  |
| Number of meetings attended as Urban League Representative | 188  | 718  |

III. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

|                                      |     |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Urban League sponsored Meetings      | 37  | 137 |
| Consultant Services - To Individuals | 238 | 800 |
| To Agencies                          | 62  | 100 |
| In Behalf of Individuals             | 58  | 129 |

Individuals Served in Group Work Services

|                     |     |      |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| Recreation Programs | 110 | 1450 |
| Club Groups         | 501 | 1230 |
| House Activities    | 780 | 1670 |